Dear Howard, 3/10/77

The enclosed copy of my today's letter to Wayne Chastain is, of course, confidential. You do not know Wayne. I know and like him even though he tends to the paranoidal on assassinations. He is not making out well now that he is a lawyer. But he is or rather one one of Memphis' best reporters. He is a good person, an honest person. He would not make any of this up. He also would not exaggerate it.

Jim will not know until I can give him copies.

By happenstance Ken Brooten and I talked last week. I learned when I phoned him yesterday that he has already returned to Gainesville. Not anticipating any of this I had written him with a suggestion for Gonzalez and when I phoned him yesterday I left the message that unless he is totally without interest now he should peak to you.

Of the committee people I had k not known earlier Ken is the one who impressed me as an honest person, one who intends to be honest.

If you can find time and if he will see you I would like it if you could take the time to discuss this in generalities, not disclosing the details about May but with the details of the report about Jim to see if he either knows anything about it or has any idea that might be relevant to it.

Ken may not. But he may have some ideas.

If he knows anything about the Lane operation with the committee, which is probably largely Sprague - Lane called Gonzalez vicious after Gonzalez criticized Sprague and Ken was with Gonzalez - there is no detail that might not be important.

I must tell you, but again in confidence, that Lane did make some threats against Jim after Jim was compelled, in May's interest, to file charges against Lane with the New York bar. He could face disciplining and more than earned it. He has stories for all occasions, as fancy society ladies have clothes. Jimmy's account is that Lane came to see him as Freed's lawyer and left with some permissions from Jimmy adverse to Jimmy's interest. Freed's publication, which I have, has Jimmy the assassin with Perry and Stoner as co-conspirators

With Lane in trouble with the bar and in his biggest publishing deal and given the kind of wreath he is his relationship with what Wayne reports cannot be overlooked as a possibility.

That he is a running dog for officialdom, regardless of how he considers himself, I do not have to tell you.

That sense of this can come only from the most intimate kind of surveillance I also do not have to emphasize.

But Lane is not alone in facing the ruinous from Jim and me now.

If this information had been in Wayne's possession earlier I believe he would have asked me about it earlier. From this I tend to assume that it is fairly new to him.

Please be both careful, and diligent in anything you may be able to do.

If there is another you can use, especially if he can use the return address of the law review, please try to get whatever Prentice-Hall (Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632) can provide in response to cooking and moaning over their ad and their announcement of the book in Publishers Weekly. From all the puffery to a review copy and the expected pub date. Developments may have delayed it but there should have been bound proofs by now. Original pub date is less than 4 weeks away.

Hastily,